

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03939 231105Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02
AGRE-00 /133 W

-----086501 231533Z /45

R 230108Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3326
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3939

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE NOVOMXY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EG, FR, AS
SUBJ: PROPOSED FRENCH WHEAT SALE TO GOE

REF: CAIRO 13015

1. COMMENTS REGARDING AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT PAR. 4
REFTEL APPEAR SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE ON PART AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CAIRO.
AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD (AWB) INDICATED TO THIS OFFICE THAT FULL 1
MILLION TON SALE TO GOE WAS RESERVED FROM 1977/78 HARVEST, AND LESS
THAN 100,000 TONS OF CONTRACT ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO BE SHIPPED AFTER
NOVEMBER 30, 1978. ACCORDING TO AWB SPOKESMAN SHIPMENTS ARE PROG-
RESSING RIGHT ON SCHEDULE TO DATE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SLIPPAGE IN
PROGRAM. PROBLEM WITH PAYMENT ARREARS ARE NO MORE SERIOUS THAN
USUAL, WITH CURRENT PAYMENTS RUNNING ABOUT 30 DAYS BEHIND DUE DATE.
THIS IS SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER THAN ON PAST EXPERIENCE AND OF NO
IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO AWB AT PRESENT. THERE CERTAINLY APPEAR NO
NEED FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO MAKE UP ANY REPUTED CROP SHORT-
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FALL.

2. ALTHOUGH CONTRACTS WITH EGYPT AND OTHER LONG-TERM AGREEMENT
COUNTRIES WILL BE MET THIS YEAR, IT IS CLEAR THAT FOLLOWING RECENT
CRITICISM OF AWB FOR MAKING FORWARD SALES AT LOW PRICES DURING
1977 HAS INDUCED THEM TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN MAKING FORWARD
SALES AGAINST THE 1978/79 CROP AT PRESENT. THE AWB IS NOT MAKING

ANY OFFERS NOW, AND WBLLD BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO ANY COMMITMENT
UNTIL SIZE OF 1978/79 CROP VIRTUALLY ASSURED.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, SALES, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER03939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-0647
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780531/aaaaazjz.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69a00799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 13015
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2609330
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED FRENCH WHEAT SALE TO GOE
TAGS: EAGR, EG, FR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69a00799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014